

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF WEST VIRGINIA  
MARTINSBURG**

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,**

Plaintiff,

**v.**

**MINDY SUE SNYDER,**

Defendant.

**CRIMINAL ACTION NO.: 3:18-CR-1  
(GROH)**

**PLEA TO INFORMATION ORDER**

On January 26, 2018, came the United States of America (“the Government”) by its counsel, David J. Perri, Assistant United States Attorney, and also came Defendant in person and by counsel, David P. Skillman, Esq., for an initial appearance, arraignment and plea hearing. After placing Defendant under oath, the Court informed Defendant that if she gave false answers to the Court’s questions, her answers may later be used against her in a prosecution for perjury or false statement and increase her sentence in this case. As an initial matter, the undersigned informed Defendant of her right to have an Article III Judge preside over the plea hearing. After the Court’s instruction, Defendant knowingly and voluntarily waived this right and executed a written waiver of the same.

The Court inquired of Defendant and her counsel as to Defendant’s knowledge and understanding of her constitutional right to proceed by indictment, the voluntariness of her consent to proceed by information and of her waiver of her right to proceed by indictment. Defendant and her counsel verbally acknowledged their understanding and

Defendant, under oath, acknowledged her voluntary waiver of her right to proceed by indictment and her agreement to voluntarily proceed by information. Defendant also executed a written waiver of the same.

The Government then summarized the terms of the plea agreement. Defendant stated in open court that she fully understood and agreed with the terms of the plea agreement and that there were no other agreements made between her and the Government. The Court noted that because the plea agreement contains certain nonbinding recommendations pursuant to Fed. R. Crim. P. 11(c)(1)(B), the Court cannot accept or reject the plea agreement and recommendations contained therein until the Court has had an opportunity to receive and review a presentence report. The Court advised the parties that it is not bound by the stipulations contained in the plea agreement and will defer action on the stipulations until receiving and reviewing the presentence report. The Court also informed Defendant that, under the terms of the plea agreement, she is entering into a limited waiver of her right to appeal and Defendant confirmed her agreement to the waiver of her appellate rights.

The Court **ORDERED** the plea agreement filed.

The Court confirmed that Defendant had received and reviewed with her attorney the Information in this matter. Defendant waived reading of the Information in open court. The Court then reviewed with Defendant Count One of the Information, including the elements of the crime the United States would have to prove at trial and the maximum sentence for Count One, to which Defendant proposed to enter a plea of guilty. The Court advised Defendant that, as part of the fine, she could be required to

pay the costs of imprisonment, community confinement, or supervision. The Court also informed Defendant of the mandatory special assessment fees applicable to this case and that restitution and forfeiture may be an issue in this case. Additionally, Defendant was informed that a conviction may have additional consequences if she is not a United States citizen. Additionally, Defendant was informed of the requirement to register as a sex offender and to keep that registration current.

The Government called its witness to present a factual basis for the plea. Neither counsel for Defendant nor Defendant had any questions for the witness. Defendant then entered a plea of **GUILTY** to **Count One** of the Information and stated that she was in fact guilty of the crime charged in Count One of the Information.

The Court informed Defendant that the Sentencing Guidelines are merely advisory. However, under the Sentencing Reform Act of 1984, certain Sentencing Guidelines could be used in determining a sentence in this case. Defendant stated that she had reviewed the various factors taken into consideration by the Sentencing Guidelines with her attorney and that she understood that the sentence could not be determined until after the United States Probation Office had prepared a presentence report. The Court also noted that it was not bound by the recommendations or stipulations in the plea agreement and that if the sentence ultimately imposed was more severe than that expected, Defendant would not have the right to withdraw the plea of guilty.

The Court reviewed with Defendant all of the rights that are forfeited by tender of a plea of guilty. The Court advised Defendant of her right to plead not guilty and

maintain that plea during a trial before a jury of her peers. The Court also informed Defendant of the right to be represented by counsel during trial, the right to confront and cross-examine witnesses, the right not to testify, the right to present evidence and subpoena witnesses and the right to have the Government prove its case beyond a reasonable doubt. The Court also noted that the jury's verdict must be unanimous. Defendant stated in open court that she understood all of these rights and understood that she would be giving up all of these rights by entering a plea of guilty. Defendant and her counsel stated that Defendant understood all of the consequences of pleading guilty.

Defendant stated that the plea was not a result of any threat, coercion, or harassment and that the plea was not the result of any promises except those contained in the plea agreement. Defendant stated there was nothing she had asked her lawyer to do that was not done. Defendant further stated that her attorney had adequately represented her in this matter and that neither she nor her attorney had found an adequate defense to the charge contained in Count One of the Information.

Based upon Defendant's statements and the testimony of the Government's witness, the Court finds that the plea is freely and voluntarily given, that Defendant is aware of the nature of the charges against her and the consequences of her plea, and that a factual basis exists for the tendered plea. The Court accepted Defendant's plea of guilty and deferred accepting the terms of the plea agreement and adjudicating Defendant guilty of the crime charged in Count One of the Information to the sentencing court. Pursuant to Fed. R. Crim. P. 11(c)(1)(B) and U.S.S.G. § 6B1.1(c), acceptance of

the proposed plea agreement, the stipulations and the nonbinding recommendations are deferred until the Court has received and reviewed the presentence report prepared in this matter.

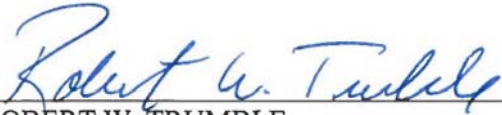
Pursuant to § 6A1 et seq. of the United States Sentencing Guidelines, it is hereby **ORDERED** that:

1. The Probation Office undertake a presentence investigation of Defendant and prepare a presentence report for the Court;
2. The Probation Officer and all Parties comply with mandates of Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure 32 and U.S.S.G. § 6A1.2 regarding disclosure, objection, departure motion and sentencing statement requirements;
3. The matter will be set for sentencing following receipt of the presentence report and addendum containing any unresolved objections and the probation officer's comments on them;
4. Defendant is **RELEASED** on the terms of the Order Setting Conditions of Release previously filed herein.

IF COUNSEL ANTICIPATES A LENGTHY SENTENCING HEARING, PLEASE NOTIFY THE DISTRICT COURT SO THAT AN ADEQUATE AMOUNT OF TIME CAN BE SCHEDULED FOR IT.

The Clerk of the Court is directed to provide a copy of this Order to parties who appear pro se and all counsel of record, as applicable, as provided in the Administrative Procedures for Electronic Case Filing in the United States District Court for the Northern District of West Virginia.

**DATED:** 1/26/2018

  
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ROBERT W. TRUMBLE  
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE